

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. No claims have been amended, cancelled, or added. Therefore, claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Porter (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,040 B1) ("Porter") in view of Blanset et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,747,040) ("Blanset"). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over any combination of Porter and Blanset.

Porter discloses a method for optimizing customization of software by generating, for a first set of software objects having usage characteristic data collected, a second set of software objects to totally or partially replace the first set of software objects. See Porter at col. 1, lines 40-43. The second set of software objects is generated at least in part on the collected usage characteristic data of the first set of software objects (col. 1, lines 43-45).

Blanset discloses a computer capable of supporting dual operating systems simultaneously. See Blanset abstract. A first operating system and its applications operate in the protected mode, while a second operating system and its applications execute in a non-protected mode (col. 2, lines 49-52). Software executing in the non-protected mode is prevented from interfering with software executing in the protected mode (col. 2, lines 52-55). This is done by providing a protection arrangement, prior to the initiation of the execution of the non-protected-mode software, which identifies addressable entities, such as memory locations and I/O ports, to which access by the non-protected-mode software is prohibited (col. 2, lines 55-62).

Claim 1 recites:

A method comprising a network computer (NC) client causing a plurality of NC clients that are booted to receive a second operating system software that is configured differently than a first operating system software in effect by replacing a first set of one or more system volumes maintained at a NC server containing the first operating system software with a second set of one or more system volumes maintained at the NC server containing second operating system software.

Porter does not disclose or suggest an NC client causing a plurality of NC clients to receive a second operating system software in effect by replacing a first set of system volumes maintained at the NC server containing the first OS software with a second set of volumes maintained by the NC server containing the second OS software. Instead, Porter teaches replacing one set of usage characteristics with another set of usage characteristic on one user's system, rather than a client computer replacing an operating system located on a server computer in order for a plurality of client computers to boot the new operating system. Consequently, claim 1 is patentable over Porter.

The Office Action acknowledges that Porter does not teach in detail a computer or server maintaining a first and second set of operating system software. See Office Action at page 2, paragraph 3. Instead, the Examiner asserts Blanset teaches that “a computer could maintained two operating system software”. Id. Applicants submit that Blanset does not disclose or suggest a NC client replacing a first set of volumes maintained at a NC server containing OS software, with a second set of volumes maintained at the NC server containing a second OS software. Instead, Blanset teaches maintaining dual operating systems simultaneously on one user system, rather than having a client computer replace a first operating system located on the server computer in order for the plurality of other client

computers to boot up to the new second operating system. Therefore, Blanset cannot disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 1.

Since neither Porter nor Blanset disclose or suggest an NC client causing a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize a second operating system by replacing the first operating system located on one or more system volumes on the NC server, any combination of Porter and Blanset would also not disclose or suggest such a limitation.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 5 and 6 are also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 2 recites:

A method comprising:
a network computer (NC) client causing a working copy of one or more system volumes on a NC server to be created by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by each of the plurality of NC clients; and
the NC client causing a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize modified operating system by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

Similar to the discussion above, Porter in view of Blanset does not disclose or suggest an NC client causing a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize modified operating system by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy. As a result, claim 2 is patentable over Porter in view of Blanset for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Since claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 2 and include additional limitations, claims 7 and 8 are also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 3 recites:

A method comprising:

a network computer (NC) client booting from a boot image provided by a NC server, the boot image including information identifying the location of one or more system volumes on the NC server, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software;

creating a working copy of the one or more system volumes by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes; and

modifying the operating system software supplied by the NC server to subsequently booted NC clients by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 3 is also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset. Because claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 3 and include additional limitations, claims 9 and 10 are also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 11 recites:

A method comprising the steps of:

a step for a network computer (NC) client causing a working copy of one or more system volumes on a NC server to be created by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by each of the plurality of NC clients; and

a step for the NC client causing those a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize a modified operating system by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 11 is also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 12 recites:

A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform:

a network computer (NC) client causing a working copy of one or more system volumes on a NC server to be created by copying the one or more system volumes to a

storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by each of the plurality of NC clients; and

a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize a modified operating system by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

Consequently, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 12 is also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 13 recites:

A method comprising:
causing a plurality of network computer (NC) clients that are booted to utilize a modified operating system by:
receiving a request to create a working copy of one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by the plurality of NC clients;
in response to receiving the request, creating the working copy by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes;
receiving modifications to the working copy;
updating the working copy in response to the receiving modifications; and
replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

Therefore, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 13 is also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 14 recites:

An apparatus comprising:
a network computer (NC) server comprising a first set of one or more system volumes;
a plurality of NC clients, wherein one of the plurality of NC clients is configured to cause those of the plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to receive a second operating system that is configured differently than a first operating system in effect by replacing a first set of one or more system volumes maintained at the NC server containing the first operating system software with a second set of one or more system volumes containing second operating system software operating system that is

configured differently that that currently in effect by replacing the one or more system volumes with one or more different system volumes.

Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 14 is also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Claim 15 recites

An apparatus comprising:
a network computer (NC) server means comprising a first set of one or more system volume means;
a NC client means for causing a plurality of NC clients means that are subsequently booted to receive a second operating system software that is configured differently than a first operating system in effect by replacing a first set of one or more system volume means maintained at the NC server containing the first operating system software with a second set of one or more system volume means containing second operating system software operating system that is configured differently that that currently in effect by replacing the one or more system volumes with one or more different system volume means.

Therefore, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 15 is also patentable over Porter in view of Blanset.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

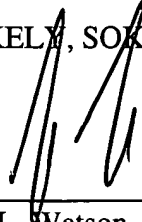
The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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